

FEB 01 2000

1 MR. WILLIAM F. WENDT: That's William F. Wendt. Will Rogers said, When Congress makes a law, it's a joke, and when we make a joke, it's a law. And that is basically what we are dealing with today. [Seems like all the meaningful alternatives are closed off by this nuclear waste law.

Now, within the law I don't see there is a whole lot to decide upon, except that you are talking about 150-ton canisters. Now, 150 tons, that's about what a diesel locomotive unit weighs. Twenty, thirty tons, well, that is about what an empty freight car weighs.

You can ask anybody that's ever cleaned up a train wreck which they would rather be grappling with, especially if it, say, falls down the side of a mountain into a river. I think there has been a few train wrecks in recent years where locomotives have fallen in rivers and the railroads have decided they weren't worth recovering.

And I think that from the safety standpoint, the larger -- from a structural engineering standpoint, that the larger the body, the more structure you have to have just to maintain the structure. And why you'd even need 20 or 30 tons, I think that is a very good question in and of itself. ]

2 Now, again, within the very limited scope of this hearing, [you have got several railroads that would go to this Yucca Mountain, proposed possible railroads, and one of them, this Chalk Mountain or Caliente-Chalk Mountain Route, I believe is what it's called, would go through the Air Forces' Flying Saucer Base out in Nevada.

Now, I don't know if it is so much interesting from an environmental standpoint, but, you know, we hear a lot about this rogue agency, you've heard some today about this rogue agency, rogue power behind nuclear power, the Nuclear Power Industry. Well, I am, actually a little more worried about this black operation crowd out there in Nevada, and I would just love to see a knock-down, drag-out fight between the two of you.

3 Now that would be -- I think that could really open up -- you know, people wonder, you know, if this isn't some kind of military coup, I mean, all this secret stuff, and wondering, you know, if elected officials are really in control. [But I think I also have to mention that this hearing, as limited a scope as it is, it's something of a nuclear college of complexes, where we have a presentation, a question period, a rebuttal period and the only difference is that I think at the college of complexes we have kind of a little rule against speaking on the subject.]